

## Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SY-10 ABF-01 /019 W

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R 021451Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD UR AFSP ASEC

SUBJECT: NEW OFFICE SPACE IN CHANCERY

REF: (A) MOSCOW'S A-721 OF NOVEMBER 21, 1972

(B) MOSCOW 8894

(C) SOMMERLATTE LETTER TO RALSTON

OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1973

(D) RALSTON REPLY OF OCTOBER 15, 1973

1. WITH NEW APARTMENTS AT LENINSKI 83 APPROACHING READINESS FOR OCCUPANCY AND FURNITURE FOR THESE APARTMENTS ORDERED AND UNDERWAY, EMBASSY AT LONG LAST BEGINNING TO GAIN SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF ACQUIRING NEW OFFICE SPACE. EMBASSY PLANS, AS SOON AS LENINSKI 83 APARTMENTS READY FOR OCCUPANCY (MOST IF NOT ALL SHOULD BE READY BY END OF YEAR), AND AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, TO CONVERT SEVERAL OF PRESENT APARTMENTS IN CHANCERY TO OFFICES AND SEVERAL OTHERS INTO MARINE QUARTERS.

2. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING TENTATIVELY IN MIND:

(A) RELOCATE TENANTS OF APARTMENTS ON SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL WING OF CHANCERY, TO LENINSKI 83 APARTMENTS. SECOND FLOOR WILL THEN BE CONVERTED TO QUARTERS FOR MARINE GUARD CONTINGENT. COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$21,000;

(B) MARINE CONTINGENT WILL VACATE SIXTH FLOOR OF NORTH WING. THIS WILL THEN BE CONVERTED INTO REPRESENTATIONAL

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APARTMENTS FOR POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND ARMY ATTACHE.

COST FOR RECONFIGURATION WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$36,000;  
(C) POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND ARMY ATTACHE WILL VACATE SEVENTH FLOOR OF CHANCERY, PROVIDING NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR POLITICAL SECTION. SPACE VACATED BY POLITICAL SECTION ON NINTH FLOOR WILL BE TAKEN OVER FOR C&R UNIT USE; SPACE VACATED ON EIGHTH FLOOR WILL BE RECONFIGURED AND TURNED OVER TO ECONOMIC SECTION, PRESS AND CULTURAL, AND SCIENCE ATTACHE. MOST OF SEVENTH FLOOR WILL BE SECURE AREA ACCESSIBLE ONLY THROUGH NINTH FLOOR ENTRANCE. EMBASSY MAY SET ASIDE SEVERAL SMALL NON SECURE OFFICES ON THIS FLOOR, WALL THEM OFF FROM SECURE OFFICES, AND MAKE PROVISION FOR ENTRANCE TO THEM FROM SEVENTH FLOOR LANDING OF MAIN STAIRWELL. NON-SECURE OFFICES WOULD BE USED BY VISITING SCIENCE DELEGATIONS AND SIMILAR GROUPS. COST FOR RECONFIGURATION HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT \$15,000; WITH LABOR PROVIDED BY SEABEES DETAILED FOR THAT PRUPOSE.

3. PRESENT EMBASSY PLANS THUS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TOPLANS EMBASSY FIRST OUTLINED IN REPAIR ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO, THOUGH THEY DIFFER IN DETAIL.

4. EMBASSY HAS INCLUDED ESTIMATES FOR RECONFIGURATION COSTS CITED ABOVE IN FY-1974 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS. DETAILED PLANS CAN BE SUBMITTED AFTER FBO ARCHITECT MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW OFFICE CONFIGURATION.

5. EMBASSY WISHES TO STRESS NEED FOR RAPID MOVEMENT ON THIS PROJECT. CRAMPED, UNSIGHTLY AND UNSUITABLE OFFICES NOW OCCUPIED BY EMBASSY STAFF ARE HIGHLY DYSFUNCTIONAL, WEIGH HEAVILY ON MORALE, AND PRESENT HIGHLY UNCOMPLIMENTARY PICTURE OF US WORKING CONDITIONS. FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS IN LATE 1972 CHARACTERIZED WORKING CONDITIONS IN CHANCERY AT WORST THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN LONG CAREERS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE; THE SECRETARY, VISITING MOSCOW IN FALL OF 1972 AS PRESIDENT'S ADVISER ON NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, WAS SHOCKED BY DEPLORABLE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE EMBASSY.

6. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX WILL BE FUNCTIONING IN MOSCOW BEFORE 1980, AND BELIEVES THAT WAIT OF THAT LENGTH JUSTIFIES EXPENDITURE OF RELATIVELY MODEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUM TO BRING OFFICE SPACE AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN CHANCERY UP TO MORE NEARLY ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT FBO DETAIL AN ARCHITECT TO MOSCOW FOR A SHORT TDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HELP EMBASSY FLESH OUT GENERAL CONCEPT ON SPACE UTILIZATION OUTLINED ABOVE. EMBASSY BELIEVES ASSISTANCE OF TRAINED ARCHITECT NECESSARY TO AVOID

REPETITION OF ERRORS MADE IN ATTEMPTS AT REMODELING IN THE PAST. IF FBO ARCHITECT NOT AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE, EMBASSY PLANS TO ASK DR. SEPP FRANK, THE AUSTRIAL ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED THE EMBASSY'S NEW COMMERCIAL OFFICE, TO COME TO MOSCOW AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE TO ASSIST IN PROJECT.  
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